

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /065 W

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R 041058Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0317

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KARACHI

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

UNCLAS LAHORE 0125

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PK

SUBJ: UDF ON GOP POLICY TOWARD AFGHANISTAN AND INDIA

1. SPEAKING TO NEWSMEN IN LAHORE FEBRUARY 2 FOLLOWING TWO-DAY MEETING OF CENTRAL ACTION COMMITTEE OF UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UDF), JAMAAT-I-ISLAMI LEADER AND UDF GENERAL SECRETARY PROFESSOR GHAFOR AHMED VOICED FRONT'S DEMAND THAT PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO RESIGN AND FACE ELECTION OVER GOP POLICY TOWARD INDIA. GHAFOR DECLARED THAT PRIME MINISTER HAD VIOLATED PPP MANIFESTO, WHICH WAS BASIS OF HIS MANDATE, BY TAKING STEPS TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH INDIA. (CHAPTER 3A OF MANIFESTO STATES: "TOWARDS INDIA, A POLICY OF CONFRONTATION WILL BE MAINTAINED UNTIL THE QUESTION OF KASHMIR...AND OTHER PENDING MATTERS ARE SETTLED.") GHAFOR ASSERTED THAT BHUTTO SHOULD THEREFORE SEEK NEW POPULAR MANDATE FOR POLICY OF NORMALIZATION WITHOUT PRIOR RESOLUTION OF KASHMIR DISPUTE.

2. ASKED ABOUT UDF POLICY TOWARD AFGHANISTAN, GHAFOR

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AT FIRST HEDGED, THEN SAID FRONT DID NOT APPROVE OF

INTERFERENCE BY ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY -- INDIA, AFGHANISTAN OR OTHERS -- IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF PAKISTAN. HE NOTED THAT IN PAST THERE HAD BEEN ALLEGATIONS ABOUT AFGHANISTAN IN THAT REGARD, ALL OF WHICH HAD BEEN SUBSEQUENTLY PROVED TO BE "WRONG." THOUGH HE HAD NO PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE WHETHER GOA WAS INTERFERING, HE "COULD NOT VOUCH" FOR GOP CONTENTION THAT AFGHANS WERE ACTIVELY SUPPORTING SUBVERSION AND SABOTAGE IN PAKISTAN.

3. COMMENT: PRESS CONFERENCE REPORTED EXTENSIVELY IN VERNACULAR AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRESS. PAKISTAN TIMES REPORT FEBRUARY 3 NOTED THAT UDF STAND ON INDIA AS ARTICULATED BY GHAFOR DIFFERED FROM TRADITIONAL POLICY OF NAP, ONE OF FRONT'S MAJOR PARTIES. THOUGH GHAFOR HESITATED TO PUT UDF ON RECORD SUPPORTING NAP LINE ON AFGHANISTAN ISSUE, SOME OBSERVERS HERE BELIEVE THAT WAS TRADEOFF FOR PUBLIC NAP SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED CONFRONTATION AGAINST INDIA. GOP UNLIKELY TO PAY ANY MORE HEED TO UDF DEMANDS THAN USUAL.

4. GHAFOR'S REMARKS ABOUT DOMESTIC AFFAIRS WILL BE REPORTED BY AIRGRAM.
SPENGLER

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